

To the Rural District Council. W E Y M O U T H.

February 15th. 1905.

Gentlemen,

I beg to lay before you my report for the year 1904.

The area of the district is 30,521 acres, and the population 7,884 according to the census of 1901, and is not much increased at the present time.

It lies near the sea and is an undulating valley with low hills on the South side of a range of chalk hills from 400 to 600 feet high; from these hills flow streams of good water, and on the streams several of the villages are situated.

The number of births for the year is 209, giving a rate of 26.5 per thousand.

The average age at death of persons living in the district was 42 years. This would be much higher if Infants living only one month were not counted.

There were three deaths from ~~Z~~ymotic disease - one from ~~meas~~les - one from whooping-cough, and one from diarrhoea - giving the ~~Z~~ymotic death rate of .3 per thousand.

Infant Mortality :- There were 20 deaths of children under one year of age giving a rate of 95.2 for every thousand of births registered.

Prevalence of disease and Notification:- This has been a healthy year - only nine cases of infectious disease were notified.

Scarlet fever	4	Diphtheria	1
Erysipelas	2	Enteric fever	1
Puerperal <i>fever</i>	1		

This is an unusually small number.

There was a mild case of enteric fever at Galton, the cause of which could not be traced; the water supply was analysed and found to be good, but there had been one or two similar cases in the neighbouring sanitary district which may have had some connection with it.

Disinfectants were freely used and the ~~excreta~~ ^{excreta} carefully treated with carbolic acid and lime.

Water Supply:- This is generally good, but at Bincombe there is still a scarcity, and at Mr. Cake's farm water has to be fetched half a mile in barrels; below the church several of the cottagers take their buckets to the old dipping well, and the water of this well is decidedly lessened since a house near it has been drained.

At Chickerell, near Morne Lodge, several new houses have been built and there are now ten houses using a surface well, the water of which has been condemned by our County Analyst, some arrangement must be made with the Weymouth Water Company to supply these houses, or there will be an epidemic here sooner or later.

Sewerage and Drainage:- Ecrement disposal :-

The new Drainage works at Wyke Regis are nearly finished, and already working many houses being connected. The sewage is conducted into filter tanks, passing through coarse slag, and afterwards allowed to flow over the land, which further purifies it; it promises to answer well, but the whole village must be connected up to cure the nuisance in the old ditch and street gulleys.

I would suggest ~~that~~ ^{that} withies be planted on the irrigated land. In Wyke village house refuse is collected twice a week and carted away on the farms, the streets being swept at the same time. In other parts of the district W C's and cess-pools are found in the new houses, and again pails and buckets with a considerable number of old fashioned privy vaults.

The new drain in Watery Lane is a great improvement, and the water course is now clear which had been previously polluted, and a similar improvement has been made in the main street at Abbotsbury.

The Isolation Hospital:- Is capable of taking sixteen beds of which six are fitted up, three in each ward, and we are now prepared to take any cases that may come; before the winter some repairs will be necessary to keep out the wet which finds its way in above the windows and through the ventilators; in other respects it is in good order. Only two cases of scarlet fever were sent there during the year, the other seven cases of notifiable disease being fairly isolated at their own homes.

Formalin vapour with carbolic acid and lime washing are the disinfectants used, and in every case treated at home cleansing and whitewashing were readily carried out by the owners, and no secondary cases occurred.

Housing of the working classes:- Many new houses have been erected and occupied at Wyke Regis since my last report generally with little garden or back outlet, the regular removal of house refuse must be an advantage to these; not much building in other parts of the district. Four cases of overcrowding were reported and dealt with by your authority. In some of the villages better cottages are wanted, and this want is being met by small owners and builders, but I should say that the housing of the district would compare favourably with other parts of the county, and there is not so much demand as formerly for labourer's cottages.

Dairies, Cowsheds, Milkshops, etc., :- There are a large number of dairies, many of them selling milk and generally well supplied with water, some of the cowsheds, made of wood and felt, are not very satisfactory, but I believe the cows live mostly out of doors.

Slaughter Houses:- I have inspected these, accompanied by your Inspector, during killing and at other times and have found them generally satisfactory.

In some cases

Bake-houses:- I noticed the flooring and drainage to be defective, and these have since been remedied, lime washing has been carried out as suggested by us. The frequent inspections of these institutions is having a good effect.

There are no common lodging-houses or underground baking-houses.

Factory and Workshop Act:- Under this Act your Council is responsible for the supervision of all workshops and work-places in the district, the factories being under the control of the Home Office. There are at present twenty nine workshops on the register, comprising:-

Bakehouses	12.	Laundries	2
Carpenters & Builders	8.	Smiths	1 4
Dressmakers	3.		

One outworker does dressmaking at her own house for a shop in Weymouth. It is necessary to see that workers of this class do their work in premises which are clean and wholesome, and provision is made for prohibiting work in houses where there is infectious disease; many of these have been visited by your Inspector and myself, and sanitary improvements ordered where necessary.

I have the honour to remain, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

William Hawkins.

William Hawkins

(Med. Officer of Health)

Broadway, Dorset.

